Subject: Chat with Dan COLLINS
From: Dan COLLINS <vermontaigne@gmail.com>
To: barriticus@gmail.com

12:08 AM **me**: howdy, Dan
12:09 AM aside from my collaboration with Johnson, wanted to get your thoughts and suggestions on how best to approach the project I've proposed
12:10 AM will be making a more formal announcement with further details soon, but am still in the process of determining the best approach to this, one that will provide for best results
obviously, there are going to be difficulties in terms of keeping this from turning into some partisan struggle
and we've got a few ideas on how to do that
Dan: What are you wanting to accomplish?
12:11 AM **me**: the end goal
is to do something about the media structure that has allowed people like Thomas Friedman to rise to the top in terms of influence
12:12 AM as well as to take better advantage of what the blogosphere produces in terms of value
to expand its influence
to reach more citizens
basically, one way to think about it
is as a means to get a great number of bloggers to from time to time focus
12:13 AM on a particular item of information that folks of all ideologies are aware of due to the particular advantages of the internet medium
and thus force the traditional outlets to cover and address such items of information
for example
Thomas Friedman
12:14 AM let me back up
you probably agree that people who read and write blogs are better informed than those who get their info from TV news and whatnot
12:15 AM **Dan**: I don't even watch TV
me: we should thus ask the question, "Why?" and the answer
12:16 AM involves the medium itself, to some extent - hyperlinks to primary sources provide for verification, and the competition of the blogosphere provides for a sort of free market whereby important info rises to the top
some minor blogger makes an important observation
and then a bigger blogger like Glenn Reynolds picks it up
Dan: Yeah, and a recursive process of self-selection.
12:17 AM **me**: which is quite different from the manner in which the MSM operates

Dan: Yeah, it's not top down.
me: exactly
it's distributed
Dan: Massively parallel.
12:18 AM **me**: the blogosphere must collectively collaborate to at least a small extent in order to
force the hand of the MSM on some occasions
Dan: Yes.
me: anyway, I'll be able to provide more details soon
but this project is viable
12:19 AM **Dan**: The only model out there that really interests me much, though I don't read it a lot, is The Examiner.
me: the project will launch in earnest this April
we've got capital lined up
12:20 AM and there's been a lot of interest already
clearly, whether one is conservative or liberal or whatever, one is most likely to be better informed than their MSM-dependent counterparts
12:21 AM I'm trying to get some diplomacy done
and I'm rather good at that, which means I can arrange for people who otherwise hate each other to understand that some degree of collaboration is in everyone's best interest
12:22 AM you're among the conservatives that at least recognize that I mean well
and so I'd like to talk to you further next week
about one element of this
Dan: Sure, I'm always up for talking. Happyfeet is a star commenter, and likes you.
12:23 AM **me**: which would be a sort of interface point by which conservatives and liberals could discuss those issues on which they agree and act in such a way as to get the MSM to cover those issues properly
Dan: But if you're looking for a business model, and you want to take it apart and see how it operates, the one that has the most potential is The Examiner.
12:24 AM **me**: I'm not really out for a business model as this isn't a profit-making pursuit; the capital is for Andrew Stein so that he can concentrate on the project full-time at some point in the next few months
12:25 AM the project will be self-perpetuating, as the software itself will be in charge, essentially
Dan: Yeah, but the point is that that's the sine qua non.
me: I will no longer be running it
Dan: Hmmm.
12:26 AM **me**: it's more of a constitution defined by software incorporating the collective human input
hard to explain
suffice to say that Stein is brilliant and what he's developing will solve many of

the problems inherent to ensuring that human input does not corrupt the efforts
anyway, I'll provide further details soon

12:27 AM going to write a piece which I will run at both Daily Kos and Red State, aside from my usual outlets

12:28 AM **Dan**: Well, that is bestriding the web like a colossus.

me: and will otherwise keep you up to date on the ongoing developments before they are announced, as I'd like to get your ideas on how some of these matters could be best implemented
Obviously, this all sounds flamboyant and crazy
but every great undertaking is flamboyant and crazy
also

12:29 AM Charles Johnson's involvement is clearly a concern to many on the conservative side
if you would

Dan: Let's just say that Charles is not Mr. Politic.

me: let others know that Johnson is not integral to the project, but rather is being used as a means by which to bring initial attention to it

12:30 AM **Dan**: Sure.

me: let them know this quietly, please

Dan: Of course.

me: I've been planning this for three years
original idea was to have Goldstein serve as Johnson's role
but I found him to be emotionally volatile

Dan: Not Mr. Politic, either

12:32 AM **me**: I feel bad for him, but at any rate he simply would have been incapable of doing what needs to be done regarding this effort, as he is neurotic and has learned the hard way that one's outbursts exist forever on the internet

Dan: Moreover, he needs to write.

me: anyway, I'll let you get back to work, but just to summarize
yeah
exactly

12:33 AM I've tried to get him to write for True/Slant and thus make good money and have content he'd own and could sell elsewhere
but he lacks discipline and is overtaken by emotive nonsense
but, to summarize

Dan: He thinks that because he's good, people will beat a path to his doorstep.

12:36 AM **me**: this project is something to which I am extraordinarily dedicated, have been planning for several years, have determined to be entirely viable if approached correctly, and is absolutely necessary for reasons I'll explain further
am about to send you a couple of documents

Dan: Okay. I'm helping on a translation, so may not hear from me till tomorrow afternoon.

me: no rush at all
12:37 AM we have a couple of months
Dan: Also, one key element is the holographic/conspectus aspect.
me: Conspectus?
interesting, I'll have to look that up
Dan: Yeah, sort of everything grokable at a look.
me: sending you three documents
Dan: These guys do a good job.
http://feedyouradhd.com/
12:38 AM Better than Tucker Carlson's layout, which isn't bad.
me: one is a paper on the transition from orality to literacy among classical Greeks - the implications regarding our own age should be clear to you
Dan: LOL, I know that stuff pretty well. Ong and all.
12:39 AM **me**: the second is related, a paper written by my uncle, who is one of the world's foremost professors of rhetoric, ethics, and media theory, and who is in this case expanding on McLuhan's work
ah, good
third document is epilogue to my upcoming book
Dan: Okay, sounds interesting.
me: okay, thanks for giving me your time, I'll talk to you soon
in the meantime
put in a good word for me
Dan: Not at all. Thanks for dropping by.
me: on the right
this is a non-ideological effort
adios
Dan: You've got it.
12:40 AM Ciao.